

[54] **LOW-LEVEL LIGHTING COMPARATOR**

5,198,797 3/1993 Daidoji 340/525

- [75] Inventors: **Harry L. Task**, Dayton; **Alan R. Pinkus**, Bellbrook, both of Ohio
- [73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Air Force**, Washington, D.C.

Primary Examiner—Frank G. Font
Assistant Examiner—Zandra V. Smith
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bobby D. Searce; Thomas L. Kundert

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An instrument and method for optically calibrating and balancing low level luminances of lighted instrument panel displays within the operator station of a vehicle is described which comprises a self-contained, calibrated luminance source and a beamsplitter for combining and juxtaposing an image of the calibrated luminance source with an image of the luminance from a lighted instrument panel display to be calibrated or balanced, whereby the images may be compared in luminance, the lighted instrument panel display being adjustable in intensity using the vehicle instrument panel light trim capability.

- [21] Appl. No.: **08/837,135**
- [22] Filed: **Apr. 14, 1997**
- [51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G01J 1/10; G08B 25/00**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **356/229; 340/815.75; 340/525**
- [58] Field of Search **356/229, 230, 356/231, 232, 49, 50; 340/461, 462, 525, 815.47, 815.75, 979**

[56] **References Cited**
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,632,217 1/1972 Bartleson 356/230

4 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

